

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 02811 241706 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SNM-02 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 JUSE-00 /060 W

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R 241630 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1773

INFO CUSTOMS HQS WASHDC

BNDD HQS WASHDC

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 2811

STATE FOR ARA MR HURWITCH, CUSTOMS FOR EYMAN, BNDD FOR STRICKLER

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: SNAR/ AR

SUBJECT: ARMANDO NICOLAI

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2454, APRIL 9, 1973

1. I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE CUSTOMS ATTACHE AND BNDD THAT THEY HAVE HAD SEVERAL JOINT CONFERENCES WITH THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE CONCERNING THE ARREST AND POSSIBLE EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES OF ARMANDO NICOLAI.

2. NICOLAI IS AN HISTORICALLY WELL- DOCUMENTED NARCOTICS TRAF- FICKER, BELIEVED TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT VIOLATOR CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY ANYWHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA. NICOLAI IS A NATIVE- BORN ARGENTINE CITIZEN. HE HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL A COMPLETE BATTERY OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, ONE OF WHOM IS SO HIGHLY PLACED IN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT THAT, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION CONVEYED BY POLICE TO BNDD/ CUSTOMS, SAID ATTORNEY HAS CONFIDENTIALLY STATED THAT AFTER MAY 25 WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE HE CAN GUARANTEE THAT NICOLAI WILL BE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY AND NEVER BE EXTRADITED. ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE HAVE STATED, AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS REPRESENTATIVES SO BELIEVE, THAT THE ONLY, REPEAT ONLY, WAY THAT NICOLAI'S EXTRA- DITION WILL BE APPROVED BY THE ARGENTINE COURTS IS ON THE BASIS OF A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO

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THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA EXPLAINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NICOLAI
IN WORLD- WIDE NARCOTICS- TRAFFICKING NETWORK.

3. NOT ONLY MUST THIS BE INITIATED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, BUT IT
MUST BE DELIVERED WELL BEFORE THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT EVEN
THOUGH ACTUAL EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS WILL PROBABLY CARRY OVER
BEYOND MAY 25. I AM FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE DIFFICULTIES ATTENDANT
IN AN APPROACH SUCH AS THIS INVOLVING THE EXTRADITION OF AN
ARGENTINE NATIONAL, BUT FEEL THAT WITH THE PARTICULAR SUBJECT
INVOLVED IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT TO BRING HIM BEFORE THE U. S.
COURTS.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OF THE ABOVE, ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE
IMMEDIATELY MADE TO PROCESS A FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST, WHICH
HAS STILL NOT ARRIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES.
LODGE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS02811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730453/aaaaiymr.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BUENOS AIRES 2454, APRIL 9, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <15-Jan-2002 by boyleja, REFER TO DEA,CUSTOMS>; RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980203
Subject: ARMANDO NICOLAI
TAGS: SNAR, AR, n/a
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BNDD
CTM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005